

Education Consultant –
Financial and Private Sector Development (F&PSD) Unit,
Department of Operations

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. For more information on the MCC, please visit www.mcc.gov.

MCC provides grants to a number of low-income nations around the world that have satisfied the eligibility criteria for participation in the program and have entered into an agreement (a “Compact”) with the MCC regarding specific programs and activities to be implemented over a five year period. Eligible countries develop and submit proposals to MCC for its consideration.

Included within the proposal from any given country may be one or more projects or activities related to, among others:

- Educational policy reform;
- Augmenting or upgrading a country’s existing educational institutions (including assessments of facilities, policies, and outreach);
- Technical/Vocational education and training and other forms of human capacity-building, including programs developed through public-private partnerships;
- Improving access to education (such as basic, secondary, vocational/technical, adult, non-formal and other forms of education and training), often targeting specific populations;
- Improving quality and relevance of education, which may include addressing teacher competence, curricula development, and developing capacity in learner-centered and adult learning methodologies

Countries may or may not include activities related to education in their proposed Compacts.

To carry out its operational mandate, MCC seeks the services of experienced education consultants to assist it in conducting technical due diligence of such projects or activities and/or assisting client countries in further developing or refining projects proposed for assistance. Once a project has been approved and a funding commitment extended, further assistance may be requested from one or more consultants in monitoring project implementation and/or to periodically review and evaluate project sustainability, performance and impacts.

Ideal candidates will have both appropriate educational qualifications; professional experience on education-related issues in developing and/or transitional countries; ability to be collaborative in a team environment; and excellent oral and written communications

skills. Best qualified applicants will have a minimum of 10 years experience in a combination of the following areas:

- Assessing the condition of educational systems in developing countries and prioritizing the interventions that are most urgently needed;
- Gathering and assessing evidence of constraints in developing countries' educational systems and estimating the economic and social costs;
- Assessing the various channels by which education-related interventions could create additional value added and contribute to poverty reduction;
- Drawing upon past government and/or donor-community experiences related to education programs in developing countries to determine the most appropriate plan forward;
- Preparing related program design documents and budgets;
- Identifying implementation risks and appropriate mitigation measures;
- Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to undertake education policy reforms;
- Supporting the governments of developing countries, or institutions in those countries, to plan and implement education programs;
- Improving access by vulnerable groups to educational facilities and programs;
- Supporting the management of education programs in developed or developing countries; and,
- Monitoring and evaluation of education programs in developed and/or developing countries using rigorous impact evaluation methodologies.

The persons selected must be skilled in performing project analysis and appraisal, with an ability to identify the essential risks and issues of concern to a funding entity. The consultant may also be required to help recruit and manage the work of other consultants with specialized skills and experience, depending on the complexity and breadth of a country's proposal.

The consultant must have the ability to brief high-level U.S. and foreign government officials on critical technical matters and would be expected to coordinate with local authorities responsible for MCC Compact development as well as other donors, where relevant.

Travel to foreign countries will be likely required. International experience, especially in developing or transitional countries, is highly desirable; as are language skills (common working languages are French, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese). The consultant may be requested to mobilize on short notice and will be expected to deliver high-quality finished products in a timely manner.

Compensation will be based upon experience. There will be no commitment to a minimum amount of work after the award of a contract.

Interested parties should submit by e-mail to recruitment@mcc.gov the following package: a resume (5 page limit) and brief cover letter 1) describing areas of expertise, 2) indicating specific sector(s) of expertise, 3) containing three professional references, and 4) containing proposed consultancy rates on a daily basis, including salary history during the past 3 years. Please include "Education Consultant" in the subject line of your e-mail and indicate the publication wherein you saw the advertisement. Candidates must be registered with the Central Contractor Registration at www.ccr.gov prior to the award of a contract. This announcement is open through July 1, 2006, although selections may be made in advance of that date.